

Secure Borders Act

Bill Summary

Improving Infrastructure & Technology

- Creates a \$1 billion infrastructure investment fund to enhance and facilitate security and commerce at our nation's ports of entry;
- Requires an assessment of the vulnerability of our nation's ports of entry to terrorist attack or penetration;
- Ensures that DHS will deploy monitoring technology along the entire southern border 24/7;
- Requires deployment of radiation portal monitors at all southern land border ports of entry;
- Increases the number of K-9 units to facilitate detection of explosives;
- Supports border pre-enrollment programs, such as NEXUS, SENTRI and FAST, and requires creation of: enrollment centers away from the border, reduction of program fees to enhance participation; and a report detailing budget and enforcement-related activities;

Increasing Staffing & Training

- Doubles Customs and Border Protection personnel at and between our ports of entry;
- Increases staff and requires a staffing assessment and strategy for the Bureau of Immigration and Customs Enforcement;
- Requires a report reviewing the progress of the "One Face at the Border" Initiative;
- Requires Spanish language proficiency for inspectors along the southern border, and enhanced training in anti-fraud and imposter detection for all inspectors;

Expanding Coordination

- Mandates the development of a comprehensive inter-agency National Land Border Security Strategy to identify and fix security gaps along the land borders of the United States;
- Requires the creation of Land Border Coordinators for the northern and southern borders to oversee federal security activities along the border;

Eliminating Fraudulent Documents

- Creates a federal training program on document fraud for state officials stationed in motor vehicle offices;
- Requires a report on development and distribution of the Transportation Worker Identification Card;

Involving Tribal & Federal Lands

- Creates an Office of Tribal Security to coordinate homeland security issues between the federal government and Native Americans on homeland security issues;

Making US-VISIT Work

- Authorizes the creation a US-VISIT Outreach Office to better inform border communities about the implementation of US-VISIT;
- Reauthorizes the creation of the Data Management Improvement Act Task Force to assist in making improvements to our border infrastructure;
- Requires that information currently collected by the I-94 arrival/departure form be collected by US-VISIT;
- Extends the period of admission for Mexican nationals entering the US with a border crossing card to six months on the implementation of the US-VISIT program;

Bettering Law Enforcement Tools

- Significantly enhances penalties for organized alien smuggling;
- Gives law enforcement the tools it needs to go after alien smuggling rings;
- Expands Detention and Removal Operations by adding bed space and personnel;

Securing the Immigration Benefits Process

- Expands the authority of the current ombudsman for the Department of Homeland Security Citizenship and Immigration Services to cover immigration related functions in Customs and Border Protection and Immigration and Customs Enforcement;
- Requires the GAO to assess the Bureau of Citizenship and Immigration Services' workflow, technology and staffing, including an assessment of the cost of the existing immigration backlog in order to secure the immigration benefits process;
- Requires DHS to coordinate with the National Institute of Standards and Technology to study biometric identifiers for the purposes of processing and adjudicating immigration applications;
- Requires that all fingerprints taken to process immigration applications be collected and stored electronically;
- Requires a GAO study on the collection and storage all immigration applications by electronic means.

Securing the Visa Waiver Program

- Mandates the creation of a system to biographically check Visa Waiver Program travelers before they board a plane to the U.S.
- Requires the DHS to implement the security enhancing recommendations issued by the DHS Office of Inspector General, including additional anti-fraud training for inspectors, and the creation of a Visa Waiver Program Office;

Creating a DHS Overseas Service

- Requires the creation of a DHS overseas service in the department's Office of International Affairs to coordinate overseas assignments of all bureaus within DHS;

Implementing a More Effective Visa Security Program

- Requires that DHS provide a report to Congress outlining how it will address deficiencies and weaknesses in the Visa Security Program.